

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03877 292337Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 SY-10 OPR-02 AID-20

NIC-01 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /142 W

----- 089658

R 292254Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5344

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINS PINT MILI ELAB

SUBJ: STRIKES CONTINUE

REF: SANTIAGO 3853

1. SUMMARY: MERCHANT AND TRANSPORT STRIKES CONTINUED
WEDNESDAY. TOMIC LETTER TO PRATS RAISED SOME PDC HACKLES.
END SUMMARY.

2. NO RESOLUTION YET OF TRANSPORT STRIKE THOUGH GOVT AND STRIKERS
APPARENTLY TRYING TO SKIRT MOST "POLITICAL" OF GUILD DEMANDS
(SANTIAGO 3811). ACCORDING TO PRESS, ARMY AND RODADO LAWYERS
DRAFTING PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH
TWO COMMISSIONS, ONE TO FORMULATE NEW TRANSPORT LAW AND THE
OTHER TO INSURE STRIKE TERMINATION AGREEMENTS COMPLIED WITH.
CHAMBER PRESIDENT AND LONGTIME CONFIDANT OF TRANSPORT OWNERS,
LUIS PARETO, PROMISED THAT ONCE PRESENTED CHAMBER WOULD PASS
LEGISLATION WITHIN 48 HOURS. LEON VALRIN TOLD REPORTERS
AT MIDDAY THAT HIS GUILD HAS VOTED TO ACCEPT LATEST GOVT OFFER FOR
STUDY, BUT THAT STRIKE IS CONTINUING. ACCEPTANCE FOR STUDY PERHAPS
STRIKERS' ATTEMPT TO AVOID TERMINATION OF TALKS AS THREATENED BY
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PRESIDENT TUESDAY EVENING (REFTTEL). ONE REMAINING ISSUE IS GUILD

COMPLAINT THAT VEHICLES GOVT WILLING TO SELL MEMBERSHIP CARRY EXORBITANT PRICE TAGS.

3. RETAIL SHOPOWNERS' GUILD LED BY RAFAEL CUMSILLE EXTENDED ITS TUESDAY STRIKE FOR ANOTHER 24 HOURS. CUMSILLE, INTERVIEWED ON RADIO BALMACEDA (PDC) MIDDAY WEDNESDAY, STATED THAT GUILD STRONGLY CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY FURTHER EXTENSIONS BASED UPON ANSWERS TO LIST OF DEMANDS IT WILL PRESENT AFTERNOON AUG 29 TO MINECONOMY CADEMARTORI.

4. DAY AND HALF LONG MEETING OF ALL ARMY GENERALS ENDED AROUND NOON WEDNESDAY. NO STATEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED.

5. LETTER FROM RADOMIRO TOMIC TO CARLOS PRATS HAS UPSET SOME RIGHTWING PDCERS. TOMIC'S RATHER ELOQUENT NOTE LIKENED CHILEAN SITUATION TO A GREEK DRAMA IN WHICH "EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN, EVERYONE WANTS TO AVOID IT HAPPENING, BUT EVERYONE DOES PRECISELY WHAT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT IT DOES HAPPEN." TOMIC STATED THAT ALL CHILEANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMMINENT TRAGEDY, THAT THROUGH BLIND PASSION "WE ARE ALL PUSHING CHILEAN DEMOCRACY TO THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE," AND THAT HE WANTED "MODESTLY TO ASSOCIATE- HIMSELF WITH HOMAGE HISTORY WILL PAY PRATS. LETTER DREW QUICK RESPONSE FROM PDC SEN JUAN DE DIOS CARMONA, WHO REJECTED ITS CONTENT AND CATEGORICALLY STATED THAT IS DID NOT REPRESENT PARTY VIEW.

6. CUT RALLY IN SUPPORT OF GOVT AND PRATS EARLY EVENING AUG 28 DREW RESPECTABLE MULTITUDE, BUT PRATS HIMSELF DID NOT ATTEND. SPEECH DELIVERED BY PS' ROLANDO CALDERON REACHED ORWELLIAN HEIGHTS AS THE ONE-TIME CLANDESTINE GUERRILA LEADER PRAISED THE RETIRED GENERAL FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION. UP PRESS AND PARTIES BEGINNING TO CRANK UP MACHINERY FOR MASSIVE SEPT 3 RALLY COMMEMORATING THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENDE ELECTORAL VICTORY.

7. PDC ISSUED STATEMENT AUG 29 CALLING ON NEW CABINET TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAMBER'S RESOLUTION OF AUG 22 AND RECTIFY GOVT POLICIES (SANTIAGO 3768). NO INDICATION WHETHER BRIONES HAS ACTUALLY RESIGNED FROM PS AS PRESIDENT'S REMARKS LAST EVENING MIGHT INDICATE (REFTEL). NEW MINHEALTH DR. MARIO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 03877 292337Z

LAGOS IS A RADICAL WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. IF BRIONES CONSIDERED AN INDEPENDENT, THEN CABINET PARTY QUOTAS REMAIN UNCHANGED SINCE AUG 9 CABINET RESHUFFLE, I.E. PS-3, PCCH-3, PR-2, IC-1, MAPU ("MODERATE")-1, IND. LEFT-1, AND MILITARY AND CARABINEROS - 4.

8. INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE CONTINUED TO BE REPORTED WITH SEVERAL BOMBS EXPLODING IN SANTIAGO. ONE DAMAGED HOME OF FORMER

CODELCO CHIEF MAX NOLFF. ALLEGATIONS OF ARRESTED RIGHTIST
LEADER THIEME'S COMPLICITY WITH BOLIVIAN, BRAZILIAN AND U.S.
INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES SUPPOSEDLY TAKEN FROM HIS CONFESSIONS
OCCUPY SPACE IN UP PRESS. YOUNG ARMY OFFICER KILLED EARLY
MORNING AUG 29 APPARENTLY AFTER QUARELLING WITH INDIVIDUALS
WHO HAD PICKED HIM UP WHILE HITCHHIKING. AFTERNOON LA SEGUNDA
HEADLINES THAT HE WAS SHOT BY RESIDENT MEXICAN WHO MEMBER OF
EXTREME LEFT GROUP. MEXICAN AND THREE CHILEANS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.
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